

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3749

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 5258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: SERVICE SUB-CEILINGS SPC MEETING SEPTEMBER 25

REFS: A) STATE 224206 DTG 192125Z SEP 75; B) STATE 228386 DTG

242330Z SEP 75; C) USNATO 5179 DTG 231310Z SEP 75

1. SPC ON SEPTEMBER 25 DISCUSSED SERVICE SUB-CEILING ISSUE, WITH
US PAPER (PARAS 3-5, REF A) AS BASIS OF DISCUSSION.

2. UK REP (BAILES) ASKED HOW THE TEN PERCENT FLEXIBILITY MARGIN
PROPOSED BY US WOULD WORK. SHE ASKED CONFIRMATION THAT IT WOULD
CREATE RIGID MAXIMUM CEILINGS ON GROUND AND AIR. US REP (MOOR)
REPLIED THAT IT WOULD, AND CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE ALLIED PHASE II
SITUATION WHERE TEN PERCENT FLEXIBILITY MARGIN UNDER PRESENT DATA
AND WITHOUT RE-DEFINITION WOULD PERMIT MAXIMUM INCREASE OF 19,300
OVER POST-REDUCTION LEVEL OF EITHER ALLIED GROUND OR AIR MANPOWER,
THE ONE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER. TEN PERCENT OF PACT AIR
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MANPOWER WOULD PRODUCE SIMILAR RIGID MAXIMUM CEILINGS
ON PACT GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER.

3. UK REP SAID LONDON BELIEVED THE US WAS CORRECT IN NOTING

THAT SHIFTING MANPOWER BETWEEN SERVICES COULD COMPLICATE VERIFICATION. LONDON CONSIDERS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS THE US SUGGESTION OF A REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY SERVICE SHIFTS TO EASE VERIFICATION PROBLEM. THIS COULD GIVE THE EAST AN OPENING TO CLAIM A DROIT DE REGARD OVER ALLIED RE-STRUCTURING.

4. FRG REP (HOYNCK) SAID BONN WAS STUDYING THE US PROPOSAL WITH GREAT INTEREST. BONN HAD ASKED HIM TO POINT OUT THAT ANY SOLUTION WHICH DID NOT MAINTAIN THE FOCUS ON GROUND FORCES WAS DANGEROUS. HE ALSO AGREED WITH US REP ON PITFALLS OF A REQUIREMENT NOTIFYING SERVICE SHIFTS TO THE EAST.

5. RE FOCUS ON GROUND FORCES, US REP OBSERVED THAT A TEN PERCENT FLEXIBILITY ALLOWANCE WILL GIVE THE ALLIES THE FLEXIBILITY THEY MAY NEED FOR RESTRUCTURING. AT THE SAME TIME, TEN PERCENT OF PACT AIR MANPOWER IS TOO SMALL A MARGIN TO PERMIT SIGNIFICANT PACT GROUND FORCE INCREASES OVER POST REDUCTION LEVELS. IN FACT, PARA 13 OF THE MBFR WORKING GROUP MILITARY TECHNICAL STUDY SHOWED THAT THE PACT WAS UNLIKELY TO REDUCE ITS AIR MANPOWER BY TEN PERCENT IN ORDER TO INCREASE GROUND FORCES, SINCE THAT COULD DECREASE THE WP AIR COMBAT CAPABILITY. FOCUS ON GROUND FORCES WAS OF COURSE MAINTAINED BY THE INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN A COMMON CEILING OF ABOUT 900,000, SINCE THIS WOULD ACTUALLY REQUIRE MORE SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS THAN THE PRESENT POSITION.

6. DANISH REP (VILLADSEN) ASKED WHY THE US HAD CHOSEN A TEN PERCENT FLEXIBILITY MARGIN, RATHER THAN A SPECIFIC NUMBER. US REP REPLIED ALONG LINES OF REF B. UK REP SAID UK HAS ALWAYS PREFERRED A SPECIFIC NUMBER, NOT A PERCENTAGE. SHE SAID IT WAS NOT CLEAR THAT A TEN PERCENT FLEXIBILITY MARGIN WOULD PRODUCE SUITABLE NUMBERS IN EACH OF THE THREE CASES OF US-SOVIET POST-PHASE I SUB-CEILINGS, THE NO-INCREASE COMMITMENTS, AND THE AGGREGATE COMMON CEILING RESULTING FROM PHASE II.

7. NEXT SPC DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE WILL BE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29.

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